

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 INR-07 L-02 SP-02 /025 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:WBCOBB:TP

APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES

EA/TB - MR. ROBERTS

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R 072314Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

S E C R E T STATE 106914

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PROSPECTS FOR AIR SIAM

REF: BANGKOK 8144

1. WE APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE REFTEL'S INFORMATION ABOUT THE THAI CIVIL AVIATION SITUATION. IT LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT GO SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN WE HAD EXPECTED.

2. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISE, HOWEVER, TO TRY TO MAKE USE OF THIS INFORMATION IN OUR AVIATION TALKS AND THUS BECOME INVOLVED IN WHAT IS APPARENTLY A BITTER AND VICIOUS STRUGGLE BETWEEN AIR SIAM AND THAI INTERNATIONAL. WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE IN PUTTING ON TABLE IN BANGKOK EVIDENCE, WHICH WE DO NOT NOW HAVE, REGARDING POSSIBLE FOREIGN SECRET

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INVESTMENT IN AIR SIAM. QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL IS COMPLETELY DISTINCT FROM ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED IN NEGOTIATIONS. ALTHOUGH WE ARE DESIROUS OF SECURING AN OUTCOME FAVORABLE TO USG INTERESTS, WE WISH TO DO NOTHING THAT MIGHT GIVE RISE TO SUSPICIONS OF COMPLICITY IN ANY

DEVIOUS SCHEME FAVORING EITHER AIR SIAM OR THAI INTERNATIONAL.

3. FOR OUR OWN INTERNAL PURPOSES, BUT NOT FOR USE IN FORTHCOMING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, DEPT WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY BE ABLE TO DEVELOP REGARDING ALLEGED TIES BETWEEN AIR SIAM AND YU HAN WU OF TAIWAN AND VANCOUVER, AND AIR CHARTER ENTERPRISES AND M. T. CHANG OF SINGAPORE. INVESTMENTS OR LOANS BY THESE FIRMS AND INDIVIDUALS DO NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN AIR SIAM.

4. CURRENT GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS IN SAN FRANCISCO ARE FOCUSSED ON ILLEGAL DISCOUNTING AND REBATING PRACTICES OF A NUMBER OF TRANSPACIFIC CARRIERS AND HAVE NO BEARING ON OWNERSHIP QUESTION. KISSINGER

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR ROUTES, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE106914
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/AN:WBCOBB:TP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750161-0008
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505101/baaaajab.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971010
Subject: n/a
TAGS: EAIR, TH, US, AIR SIAM, TIA
To: BANGKOK
SINGAPORE
TAIPEI
HONG KONG
VANCOUVER
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006